

# The Alternative

## Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

July 2019

[ReadingBerksIntergroup.org](http://ReadingBerksIntergroup.org)

The Alternative is published monthly by the Reading-Berks Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous. Serving Districts 33, 66, and 67 of Delegate Area 59—Eastern Pennsylvania. Reach us by mail at P.O. Box 12157, Reading, PA 19612, or you can email us at [Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.org](mailto:Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.org)

**HELP IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK CALL 610-373-6500**

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### INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION

Pete R.	Intergroup Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Chairperson@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Chairperson@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Clint S.	Intergroup Alt. Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Alt-Chair@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Alt-Chair@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Tammy G.	Intergroup Treasurer	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Treasurer@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Tom H.	Intergroup Secretary	<a href="mailto:Secretary@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Secretary@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Chris G.	Hotline Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Larry M.	Archives Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Archives@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Archives@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Al S.	Men's Prison Chairperson	<a href="mailto:MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Susan W.	Woman's Prison Chairperson	<a href="mailto:WomansPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">WomansPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Bill C.	Literature Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Literature@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Literature@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Tyler J.	Schedules Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Schedules@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Schedules@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Rob C.	Institutions Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Institutions@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Institutions@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Brian L.	Newsletter Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Misty H.	Unity Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Steve M.	Bridging the Gap	<a href="mailto:BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Greg G.	Website	<a href="mailto:Info@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Info@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Michele H.	Public Information	<a href="mailto:PublicInfo@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">PublicInfo@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Lindsey W.	Visitation	<a href="mailto:Visitation@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Visitation@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>

The Reading Berks Intergroup meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Calvary Baptist Church, 510 Park Ave., Reading, PA at 7:30 P.M. All members of Alcoholics Anonymous are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### *"Responsibility Declaration"*

"I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that, I am responsible."

## Step Seven

“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”

The Seventh Step is where we make the change in our attitude which permits us, with humility as our guide, to move out from ourselves toward others and toward God. The whole emphasis of Step Seven is on humility. It is really saying to us that we now ought to be willing to try humility in seeking the removal of our other shortcomings just as we did when we admitted that we were powerless over alcohol, and came to believe that Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. If that degree of humility could enable us to find the grace by which such a deadly obsession could be banished, then there must be hope of the same result respecting any other problem we could possibly have.

*(Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition pg. 76)*

## Tradition Seven

“Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions”

Probably no A.A. Tradition had the labor pains this one did. In early times, we were all broke. When you add to this the habitual supposition that people ought to give money to alcoholics trying to stay sober, it can be understood why we thought we deserved a pile of folding money. What great things A.A. would be able to do with it! But oddly enough, people who had money thought otherwise. They figured that it was high time we now-sober-paid our own way. So our Fellowship stayed poor because of it.

*(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 160)*

## 7th Step Prayer

*My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character, which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding. Amen.*

*(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 76)*

**A Special Thanks to the following groups for their contributions to support Reading-Berks**

**Intergroup:** Walnut Recovery Group, Teathyme Group, Experienced Strength & Hope, Hilltop Group , Alpha Group, Leesport Group, and Come As You Are Group.

## *Service Commitments*

### **“Become Your Home Group’s Intergroup Representative (IGR)”**

In areas where Intergroups have been formed such as Berks County, the AA Groups elect an Intergroup Representative and an Alternate, who participate in the monthly Intergroup business meetings with other elected Representatives. These meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Calvary Baptist Church, [510 Park Avenue, Reading PA](#). The meeting starts at 7:30 PM and is usually over by 9:00PM

### **“AA HOTLINE” Needs Volunteers**

AA members with some accumulated sobriety are always needed to join up to take calls from individuals who are reaching out for one reason or another. Contact the Intergroup Hotline Chairperson at [Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org](mailto:Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org) and sign up sheets are available at [http://www.readingberksintergroup.org/Getting\\_Involved.htm#HOTLINE\\_SIGN-UP\\_SHEET](http://www.readingberksintergroup.org/Getting_Involved.htm#HOTLINE_SIGN-UP_SHEET)

### **“Bridging The Gap” – Needs Volunteers**

Contact Steve M. at 610-241-4158 or [BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org](mailto:BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org) or [bridgingthegap@comcast.net](mailto:bridgingthegap@comcast.net) or “Bridging the Gap”, P.O. Box 301, Blandon, Pa. 19510

### **Need Male Volunteers for the Prison Commitment**

Meetings are Saturday Nights from 7-8 PM  
Please Contact Al S. at [MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org](mailto:MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org)  
Applications are available on the Reading Berks Intergroup Website @ <http://www.readingberksintergroup.org/Prison%20Volunteer%20App-2015.pdf>

### **Need Female Volunteers for Prison Commitment**

Meetings are Tuesday Nights from 7-8 PM  
Please Contact Susan W. at [SanLee715@gmail.com](mailto:SanLee715@gmail.com)  
Applications are available on the Reading Berks Intergroup Website @ <http://www.readingberksintergroup.org/2015%20PrisonVolunteerApp%20Female.pdf>

## ***Events***

### **District 67 AA Annual Picnic**

**Sunday June 30 12pm to 5pm. AA and Al Anon Speakers 3pm to 4pm.**

Exeter Township Community Park-Happy Landings-Elm St Exeter, PA  
Food, fun, fellowship, Bring a covered dish, Playground for children, Restrooms, Handicap Accessible,  
Sorry No Pets-Park Rules

### **Intergroup Picnic**

**July 20<sup>th</sup> 2019. 12pm to 5pm with a meeting at 3pm.**

Mohnton Playground 202 E Wyomissing Ave Mohnton, PA 19540  
Come out for Food, Fun, and Fellowship!!

### **Happy Hour 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Picnic**

**Saturday Aug 17, 2019 from 12pm to 6pm. At Mohnton Playground. 202 E. Wyomissing Ave. Mohnton PA, 19540.**

AA Speaker at 5pm

**\*\*Volunteers needed for set up/clean up and help behind the counters\*\***

**\*\*Any questions please contact Mimi @ (610) 777-8904 or Charlie F @ (610) 373-5314\*\***

### **“The Camping Trip”**

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Weekend July 4-7, 2019. Labor Day Weekend August 30 to September 2, 2019**

Camp Charles Campground 1077 Blue Mountain Dr. Bangor, PA 18013  
Questions Contact Mike Westervelt. Phone: (609) 213-1015

### **Bill & Bob’s Book on the Beach**

**November 1-3, 2019. Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center.**

1 Baltimore Ave. Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971  
Conference Registration: \$30 through Oct 1. \$35 between Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> and Nov 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Make Checks Payable to "We Are Not Saints." Mail to: P.O. Box 293. Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971  
Contact Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center (302) 227-2511 or 1 (800) 422-0600.  
**\*\*Mention Bill and Bob with #9384 for our special rates\*\***

**Save The Date!!! May 8-9 2020**  
Through the Steps with.....**Katie and Charlie P.**  
Austin, Texas. Coming to Berks County  
*A Design for Living Big Book Workshop*  
Presented by District 66  
Details to follow shortly.....For info and to get on mailing list  
Contact Alan F. [Fertela7@gmail.com](mailto:Fertela7@gmail.com)

## **Announcements**

**Shillington Lifeline Group Needs Support!!**  
Meets every Tuesday night at 7:30 pm at Shillington Church of Christ  
475 Philadelphia Ave Reading, PA 19607

**New Publication:**  
**Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W's General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970**  
Cost is \$10.00. Place your orders direct from A.A.W.S. or Intergroup.

**New Meeting:**  
**Young People's Fourth Dimension Group of Alcoholics Anonymous**  
Tuesday 7:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M  
Exeter Bible Fellowship Church 926 Philadelphia Terrace Birdsboro, PA 19508

**"Alternative Advertisements"**  
**All A.A. Events, Notifications, Announcements and/or Testimonies are Welcome!**  
Please email all requests to: [Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org](mailto:Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org)

**"New AA Meeting Guide Mobile App"**  
Free mobile app for IOS and Android. Google: <https://meetingguide.org/>  
Designed to be simple, fast, and help you find AA meetings

**All are Invited to Attend:**  
**District 66 Area 59 Meeting**  
2nd Thursday each month at 7 - 8 PM  
St. Peters UCC, Dwight St. & Curtis Rd., West Lawn, PA

**New Meeting:**  
**"Primary Purpose"**  
Monday 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. - Big Book Study  
Bausman Memorial UCC, 1064 Penn St., Wyomissing, PA 19610

## Recovery Quotes

“If you know someone who tries to drown their sorrows, you might tell them that sorrows know how to swim.”

*Ann Landers*

“Sometimes you’ve just got to give yourself what you wish someone else would give you.”

*Dr. Phil*

“You can come out of the furnace of trouble two ways: if you let it consume you, you come out a cinder; but there is a kind of metal which refuses to be consumed, and comes out a star.”

*Jean Church*

“We honor ourselves when we speak out for recovery. We show the world that recovery matters because it brings hope and peace into the lives of individuals and their loved ones.”

*Beth Wilson*

“Sometimes we motivate ourselves by thinking of what we want to become. Sometimes we motivate ourselves by thinking about who we don’t ever want to be again.”

*Shane Niemeyer*

“When I focus on what’s good today, I have a good day. When I focus on what’s bad, I have a bad day. If I focus on the problem, the problem increases. If I focus on the answer, the answer increases.”

*Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous*

“You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it.”

*British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher*

"I drank for happiness and became unhappy. I drank for joy and became miserable. I drank for sociability and became argumentative. I drank for sophistication and became obnoxious. I drank for friendship and made enemies. I drank for sleep and woke up tired. I drank for strength and felt weak. I drank for relaxation and got the shakes. I drank for courage and became afraid. I drank for confidence and became doubtful. I drank to make conversation easier and slurred my speech. I drank to feel heavenly and ended up feeling like hell."

*Author Unknown*

## *Important Dates in A.A. History*

**July 1-3, 1960** - 8700 attend 25th Anniversary of AA in Long Beach, CA

### **July 2**

**1965** - Best of Bill and Pocket-Sized 12 and 12 1st sold

**1993** - 50 years of AA celebrated in Canada

**2000** - 20 Millionth Big Book given to Al-Anon in Minneapolis

**July 2-3, 1955** - Bill W turns "the fellowship over to the fellowship" at 4:00 PM, 5000 attend 20th Anniversary at our St Louis Convention

**July 2-4, 1965** - 10,000 attend 30th Anniversary of AA in Toronto. There we came to own our Responsibility Declaration

**July 4, 1939** - 1st AA meeting started in Flatbush, NY

**July 3-5, 1970** - 10,900 attend 35th Anniversary of AA in Miami. Bill W gave his last talk to AA

**July 3-6, 1980** - 22,500 attend 45th Anniversary of AA in New Orleans First true marathon meeting was held here

**July 4, 1999** - He who has a fifth on the fourth may not come forth on the fifth...

**July 4-6, 1975** - 19,800 attend 40th Anniversary of AA in Denver Worlds largest coffee server serves 1/2 million cups a day

### **July 5:**

**1985** - AA gives Ruth Hock 5,000,000th Big Book during 50th AA Anniversary in Montreal, Canada

**1990** - AA gives Nell Wing 10,000,000th Big Book during 55th AA Anniversary in Seattle, WA

**July 3-6, 1980** - Gay AA's have own program at 40th AA Anniversary in New Orleans

**July 5-7, 1985** - 45,000 attend 50th Anniversary of AA in Montreal. House of Seagrams flew their flags at half mast for 3 days

**July 7, 1940** - Bill attends 1st Summer Session at School of Alcohol Studies at Yale University

**July 5-8, 1990** - 48,000 attend 55th Anniversary of AA in Seattle. 75 countries were represented as the former Soviet Unions members attended for the first time

**July 8, 1940** - 1st AA Group formed in Dayton, Ohio

**July 10, 1941** - Texas newspaper publishes anonymous letter from founding member of Texas AA Group

**July 20, 1941** - First AA group formed in Seattle, Washington

### **July 22:**

**1877** - William Duncan Silkworth born in Brooklyn, NY

**1980** - Marty M. early AA woman and founder of NCADD dies

### **July 23:**

**1940** - Philly AA's send 10% of kitty to Alcoholic Foundation, sets precedent

**1943** - Esther C., passed Jan 15, 2005, sober since July 23, 1943.

**July 24, 1943** - L.A. press reports formation of all-Mexican AA Group

**July 28-30, 1950** - 1st AA Convention celebrates 15th anniversary of AA in Cleveland